

a.) Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) An isolated DNA, comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A recombinant DNA which comprises a vector and the DNA according to ~~claims 3 or 4~~ claim 3.

6. (Original) A transformant obtained by introducing the recombinant DNA according to claim 5 into a host cell.

Claims 7-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method for detecting an IgA nephropathy in a patient, comprising:

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of the nucleotide sequence of DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions;

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of a the nucleotide sequence complementary to ~~DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions;~~

using said oligonucleotides in a reverse-transcription-polymerase chain reaction to detect mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1; and

determining an IgA nephropathy in said patient based on a result of said reverse-transcription-polymerase chain reaction.

11. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method for detecting an IgA nephropathy in a patient, comprising:

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of a the nucleotide sequence complementary to ~~DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions;~~

using said oligonucleotide in a Northern blot to detect mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1; and

determining an IgA nephropathy in said patient based on a result of
said Northern blot.

Claims 12-29 (Cancelled)